

# Circuit

A monthly employee publication of the Bonneville Power Administration

## Spring breaks out



Spring broke out in the Northwest last month. And BPA people and those from our neighbor agencies seemed to brighten up along with the early blooms. (Top) A fisheye lens caught the tree canopy in the Lloyd plaza courtyard near Portland headquarters. (Left) A BPA employee on a lunch stroll along what could be called cherry blossom avenue. (Right) Three U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service employees enjoy lunch in the federal complex cul-de-sac garden near headquarters — (left to right) Sue Godfrey, Lily Young and Jacintha Williams.

Photos by Jack Odgaard

Portland police turned back a convoy of fishing boats on trailers. In a rainy Seattle, tribal youth drummed while schoolchildren danced in puddles. In Boise, environmentalists camped for hours in the lobby, quietly waiting their turn to testify.

In Lewiston, Idaho, farmers and mill workers appeared anxious. They said dams were their bread and butter. Local residents in Kalispell, Mont., said salmon were not the problem in the Flathead and the Clark Fork rivers.

Those were some of the scenes and some of the views voiced at the federal meetings on salmon held in February and March.

A federal caucus of nine government agencies held 15 meetings across the Northwest and Alaska. The purpose was to take public comments on plans to save salmon in the Columbia Basin. It was one of the largest public processes ever staged in the region.

Thousands of people showed up to listen, testify or demonstrate their views at hearing sites. All demonstrations were peaceable. The caucus member agencies are BPA, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Bureau of Reclamation, the National Marine Fisheries Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Environmental Protection

Agency, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management

The public came to give their views on the major efforts to help save the salmon. They talked about the All-H Paper, a comprehensive multi-species approach to restoring salmon. They addressed the Corps' Environmental Impact Statement on lower Snake River salmon migration. And they expressed their opinions on the NMFS and USFS biological opinions on the Federal Columbia River Power System. Most speakers said what they thought were the best alternatives for saving salmon. The alternatives are contained in the All-H Paper.

As the meetings showed, the plight of Columbia River salmon has become a cause célèbre among environmental groups. National public interest groups such as American Rivers and the National Wildlife Federation were well organized, media savvy and vocal. So were their local groups. They trooped in with placards and inflated vinyl fish and danced around in salmon costumes reminiscent of the Charlie the tuna TV commercials of years ago. Environmental groups packed meeting rooms and many of the speakers testified passionately. They said the key to saving salmon was to breach the four lower Snake River dams.

Those who wanted other means to save salmon were well represented in Pasco and Lewiston but less so in the urban areas where environmentalists held sway. In all, the caucus received about 65,000 individual comments. Postcards accounted for 35,000 and e-mail 20,000. Letters accounted for 3,500, and 1,500 people testified at the meetings.

The comment time closed March 17. The testimony is now being collated. A report is due later this spring, as is a biological opinion. (See the celebration photos on page 6.) ◀

Ed Mosey is BPA's chief press officer



Paul Norman stakes a mature tree he's planting at the Ross Complex. The head of the Power Business Line was one of about 90 volunteers who turned out for BPA's Earth Day projects in mid-April. Employees at Ross planted a mix of 130 established trees five to 10 feet tall. Headquarters folks later went to the Sandy River delta near Troutdale, Ore., to plant 150 to 200 sapling white oaks. See the full story of BPA's year 2000 Earth Day project — and a photo gallery of people planting in the centerfold.

Photo by Jack Odgaard

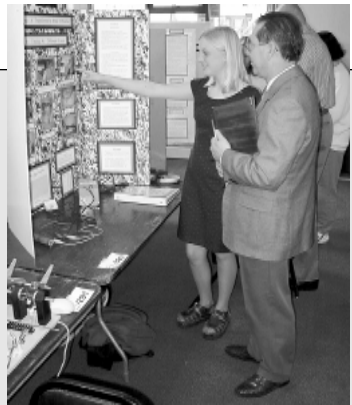
## Groups stay close in retirement

Last month's *Circuit* had an article and photos from the annual St. Patrick's Day lunch and reunion. Each year, retirees and current employees get together to swap stories, renew old friendships and have fun.

But the annual event at Portland isn't the only time that retirees get together. The BPA family has spawned many retirement groups. Some meet frequently for lunch or breakfast. Some get together for regular social outings — golf, dancing, playing cards. Some book group trips.

In recent years the *Circuit* also reported on some groups who get together for more unusual pastimes. A 1998 story and photos covered a group of retirees turned vintners. Ed Sienkiewicz, Larry Larson, Gary Fuqua and others went into the wine growing and producing business — but just for their own wine tasting pleasure.

This edition has articles about some other retirees who meet regularly. Read about these Spokane, Portland and Vancouver folks on page 7. ◀



Orion Albro judges the display of 9<sup>th</sup> grade student Elise Thorne from Selah, Wash. She won the BPA Power Stewardship Award of \$100 for her project. It's title was "Find a transformer's peak efficiency by testing at different loads." See the article and photos on the Washington State Science Fair and BPA volunteers who made it a success on the back page.

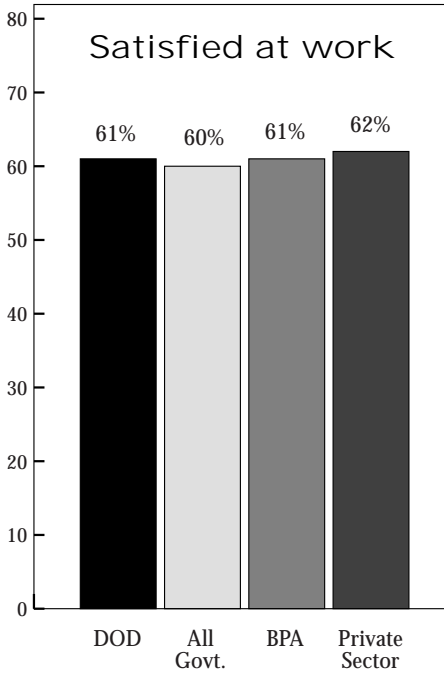
Photo by Keith Lawson

### Inside the Circuit

- 2 Employee survey is changing
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- 7 Retirees keep in touch



### Satisfied at work



Percent of workers satisfied or very satisfied with their jobs. From the most recent surveys of the Department of Defense, overall government, BPA and the private sector.



The employee survey is going national this year.

BPA's survey will be conducted this summer by the Great Place to Work Institute. BPA will then be able to compare itself to a national data base of companies that are recognized as being great places to work.

Workers in the field will get a paper survey in early June. An e-mail version will go to all other employees on June 14. All responses are due back on June 28.

The institute will analyze the survey and present its findings to BPA's executive board on Aug. 30. On Aug. 31, the results will be presented at a meeting for all employees.

This year's survey will have some questions from earlier surveys so the results this year can be compared to those of previous years. But the 2000 survey will also contain questions from the Great Place to Work Institute's Trust Index.

Carole Bradford of Strategic Planning says the Trust Index offers BPA advantages over the agency's "homemade" employee survey. "The Trust Index makes it possible for us to compare ourselves to the best private-sector companies," she says. "But it also gives us a way to receive the insights of a nationally respected company that has been tracking excellent businesses for decades. This is a brave move on BPA's part, but one that will provide great information."

## Ward serves on board

Chief substation operator Billy Ward at The Dalles now serves on the Oregon Workforce Investment Board. Gov. John Kitzhaber appointed Ward to the board last fall and the state Senate later confirmed his appointment.

The 30-member board is a new state body that implements the federal Workforce Investment Act of 1998. The board handles workforce issues for the future and will make recommendations for Oregon to the governor.

The new board replaced the Oregon Workforce Advisory Committee that was an advisory body in the state before the federal act was passed.

Membership on the new board includes members of the legislature and a majority of people from the business sector. It has members from urban and rural areas.

BPA's Ward has been active in local government in The Dalles and in civic activities for years. ◀



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The survey will allow BPA to see how it stacks up alongside the 100 best companies. And the analysis will include recommendations for specific management actions to improve the agency's performance.

Employees may have heard of the Great Place to Work Institute and Robert Levering, its leader. Levering is author or co-author of some best selling books on business. Recent ones are *The 100 Best Companies to Work for in America* and *A Great Place to Work*. He is also co-author of *Fortune*

magazine's annual January feature on the 100 best companies to work for.

According to Bradford, "Levering is excited to work with us. The institute takes only one new client a year and we

are it this year." She says the institute has never before worked with a government agency. "Levering and others are very interested to see how BPA,

## Survey takes on greatness this year

which they view as being a very good government agency, compares with private-sector firms," she says.

Levering and a colleague, John Bouffard, gave a presentation at last October's quarterly managers' meeting and met with the executive board afterwards. Levering affirmed BPA's seven vision elements for a high performing organization but said that the agency needs to emphasize being great in one or two of them while being good in the rest.

A lot of the writing about great places to work features such things as pay, benefits and great physical facilities. But those aren't what Levering uses to define a great place to work. He says, "A great place to work is one where you trust the people you work for, have pride in what you do, and enjoy the people you work with."

And those are the qualities that will be tracked in the employee survey. ◀

**Ian Templeton is a writer in the communications group**



Messianic dancers performed at headquarters on April 4 for the kickoff of Christian Values Month. Employees and family members danced steps that combine Hassidic, Israeli and other traditional folk dance steps. BPA's Christian Values Resources Group sponsored events during the month.

Photo by Jack Odgaard

## How's the *Circuit* doing?

Got a gripe, something you like or a story idea? Call or send an e-mail to let us know.

The *Circuit* is one of the few publications BPA still prints. We also post it on the Web. Just as with our computer publications, we want to stay current with our readers to best serve them.

With the change to mostly electronic communications, we no longer do formal surveys of readers. Computers make it easy to survey users as they browse or read a Web site. But we don't have that advantage with print publications.

So we want your feedback and input on the *Circuit*. You can help us keep it tuned into our audience. Tell us what you want to read about and what you like to see. We would like your specific input in two areas – content and quality.

For **content**, we'd like to know of any story you particularly enjoy in an issue. And we'd like to know if you don't like an article for any reason. Are there articles so far this year that you'd like to single out? Also let us know if you would like to see certain articles or photos that we don't include or see more of certain coverage. What type of articles do you find most interesting? What type help inform you about BPA and the workplace? What type will you most likely read all the time? And which ones don't interest you and do you not read?

We strive to improve the **quality** of the *Circuit* at all times. That includes writing, editing, photos, art (graphics) and design (layout). So we want to know about articles you find particularly easy to read and understand (plain language). And we want to know of any articles that you find hard to read and/or understand (bureaucratese or jargon). What about the quality of the photos? What about

the appeal and quality of the artwork and graphics?

Finally, we'd like your help in one other area. We welcome your leads or tips for possible articles, photos or coverage. Do you know of a work group that has an interesting project going on? Something that would help other employees learn about and understand BPA's business? Does it have hands-on work that would make good photos? Or could it use interesting graphics to show results, design or other data?

Do you know a person at BPA who has an unusual job or something out of the ordinary that very few people work at? Or what about an unusual assignment, or an innovative team effort or something new that many people outside that group's field would find interesting? What about individuals or groups or crews who help someone else while doing their work?

Do you know BPA people who are involved in civic or community roles? People who hold office, serve in volunteer groups or help in local projects? In short, we'd like to know about anything that BPA folks work on that others would find valuable or interesting. And any civic activity that reflects the quality of BPA people.

We are always looking for new, good and interesting subjects to cover. And we want to continually improve the *Circuit's* quality so that it serves BPA's employees and other readers well. So if anything moves you or troubles you in this edition or any other, please telephone or send an e-mail to let us know?

To paraphrase a familiar quote, the *Circuit* was made for its readers and not readers for the *Circuit*. So we need your help to keep it that way. ◀

— Jack Odgaard, editor

## Spring brings garden fever



It may be easier at BPA headquarters than most places to tell when spring is finally here. That's when people make some distinct changes in behavior and dress at work.

Some can be seen gazing out the windows, wondering why the sun shines while they're indoors. Others wear gardening clothes to work on casual Fridays.

But the surest sign of all that spring is here – regardless of the weather at the moment – is when employees show up at work with boxes and plastic planters full of garden goodies. The booty of their garden thinning that they are happy to give away to fellow workers. And then when these and other employees get to the cul-de-sac 15 minutes before noon to scout available plants.

Well, they did all that again in mid-April at BPAs fourth spring plant swap. And the cofounders of the event were there to make sure everyone got a fair chance for the plants they wanted. Alan Crymes hit the bell at noon to open the plant take and carry time. Linda Krugel and Randi Thomas checked selections and helped gardeners with information on the various plants.

This year's free spring swap was the largest yet. More people brought more plants to give away, and more accommodating gardeners were there to pick plants for their home plots and pots. ◀



## Giving helps needy nations

BPA workers and friends donated 374 pairs of eyeglasses in 1999 to help people in third-world countries. And they gave dozens of eyeglass cases and many used hearing aids.

The Associates Foundation collects the items at BPA headquarters. Each service center has a drop box. The foundation then turns the items over to the Oregon Lions Sight and Hearing Foundation. The national Lions group repairs, cleans and checks all sight and hearing aids. It then distributes them to people in poorer countries.

The Oregon Lions group sent a thank-you to the Associates and BPA employees for their giving last year.

Workers and visitors can drop off items at any service center or the Associates center, Room B155 in the headquarters basement. People elsewhere can send them to Deborah Maria - PGGB/6, Bonneville Power Administration, P.O. Box 3621, Portland OR 97208-3621. ◀

April was a big month for green power at BPA. Announcements of green power sales, new alliances and renewable energy projects came one after the other.

BPA signed a letter of intent to buy the output from 28 more wind turbines at the Foote Creek wind farm in Arlington, Wyo. This adds 16.8 megawatts to the project, which is owned by SeaWest.

BPA signed a power purchase agreement to buy the output from a photovoltaic array at Ashland, Ore. The city's system is being installed on business buildings including the Shakespeare festival's Angus Bowmer Theater. And BPA signed a \$900,000 five-year contract agreement with the University of Oregon to fund a regional solar radiation data center. The center will support future development of solar energy in the region.

The agency also signed a contract with Portland General Electric to sell it up to 14 average megawatts of new wind power.

Administrator Judi Johansen signed another agreement with the region's states and utilities. BPA will fund the Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance for another five years at a level that may total \$50 million.

BPA, the four Northwest states and the Department of Energy Seattle region have formed the Northwest Solar Alliance. The alliance promotes the national Million Solar Roofs Initiative and will support the region's solar industry.

BPA is building up its portfolio of renewable energy resources. Its goal is to sell 450 aMW of environmentally preferred power, the more correct label for what is loosely called green power, by 2006. That's about five percent of BPAs total power sales. About 300 MW will come from low-impact hydro and the remaining 150 MW will come from other sources, mostly wind.

In its subscription program, BPA is offering an array of green power products. They combine low-impact hydro and other renewables at a range of prices. Eight public utilities already purchase green power from BPA. More deals are in the works. Cumulative sales of green power total 22.7 aMW.

So far, BPAs green power sales have brought in \$2.5 million in premiums. Some of the green power premiums go to the Bonneville Environmental Foundation. It reinvests them to develop more renewable resources, such as the City of Ashland solar project. BPA invests all of the green premiums it earns in these sales into additional renewable resource projects.

Besides the premiums from green power sales, BPA has budgeted \$15 million per year to develop new renewables. BPA has 17.1 MW of capacity already installed at the Foote Creek wind farm. And BPA is considering purchasing 30 aMW from a geothermal project. Two potential sites for geothermal power are located in Northern California and are now before the U.S. Forest Service and

Bureau of Land Management for decisions.

Lots of resources are on the slate, but "the key to making this work," says BPA's Al Ingram of the green power development team, "is getting customers to work with us."

The PGE wind deal is a good example. Most retail consumers who pay a premium for green power do so because they want to contribute to developing new renewable resources. They don't want to pay for wind farms that already exist. At the same time, renewable resource developers want to know they have a market before they develop new resources.

Under its contract with BPA, PGE signs up the retail customers for wind power, and then BPA supplies the wind power. PGE customers can buy 100 kilowatt-hour blocks of PGE's Clean Wind product for an additional \$5 per month. PGE can ask for additional wind power if it has enough customer demand.

Account executive Dennis Oster says BPAs goal is to be able to develop another wind farm in the Pacific Northwest to supply the renewables needs of all BPA customers.

"We see this program as a way to show environmental leadership," says Oster. "We use the marketplace to create opportunities to invest in good works that benefit the region." ◀

Pat Zimmer is a writer in regional relations

## Green Power at BPA



# BPA Earth Day efforts





# Volunteers help raise some forests

**B**PA's Earth Day events in the Portland/Vancouver area this year should show results for years to come. In mid-April, Ross and headquarters employees planted trees.

At the Ross Complex, about 30 volunteers helped plant 130 mature trees of varying types. All are native to the area, including northern red oak, birch, hawthorn, western red cedar, Sitka spruce, Douglas fir, chokeberry and others.

Facilities manager Paul Martin said BPA worked with Friends of Trees and others on the project. Mike Conners coordinated the Ross Earth Day planting. Many of the hardwoods are seven feet tall or higher. The evergreens ran from five to seven feet.

Workers planted trees along parts of the Ellen Davis Trail, along 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue into the Ross Complex from residential Vancouver and along part of Ross Road.

Several members of the executive committee worked with other employees at Ross. Steve Wright, corporate vice president, had urged managers to take part in the Earth Day project. Their work would count toward their challenge for public service after last fall's Combined Federal Campaign. Among those who planted trees at Ross were Fred Johnson, Paul Norman, Jim Curtis, Pam Marshall and Steve Hickok

Hickok had started his day at 5 a.m. Portland time in Washington, D.C. He arrived back home just before noon and headed for Ross to do his Earth Day duty.

The week after the Ross project, about 60 volunteers from headquarters helped plant 150 to 200 sapling white oak trees near the Sandy River east of Portland. Cheri Larson coordinated the event with the U.S. Forest Service and Friends of Trees.

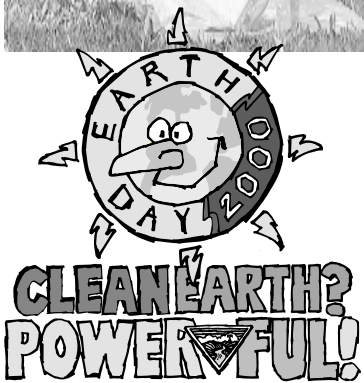
The 1,600-acre Sandy River delta is the westernmost forest land of the Columbia Gorge Scenic area. Robin Dobson of the USFS at Hood River says the total project there will eventually have about 1,000 oak trees.

The saplings are native to the area. Dobson collected the acorns for the plants from below the oak trees in Lewis and Clark Park that adjoins the delta property. Dobson says that very few hardwood forests remain in the Northwest, so this particular project will be unique for the area.

The BPA workers at the delta had sunny weather to work in, and much smaller plants to deal with. But they had to stake and wire cages around the plants to prevent rodents and deer from eating the plants.

Vice presidents Wright and Greg Delwiche did their public service challenge duty at the delta. And we noticed Wright keeping an eye out for managers who showed up, and for those who didn't. ◀

Photos by Jack Odgaard







## tHanks, tHanks, tHanks, tHanks

Leaders of BPA's effort in the federal All-H public involvement process were elated last month, to say the least. Managers Caroline Whitney, Katherine Cheney and others said the All-H program the past two months was a huge success.

And managers said thanks to more than 40 employees in mid-April by holding a catered lunch to celebrate.

The whiteboard in the conference lunch room was sprinkled with Hs and a big "Thanks." The four aspects of fish survival in the Columbia River are: harvest, habitat, hydro and hatcheries.

Whitney repeated a printed whiteboard message when she spoke briefly. "Thanks for all your hard work," she said. "Each of you contributed to make the federal caucus public meetings process a success."

She pointed to the numbers posted from the public input process. The federal agencies held 15 meetings in five states over six weeks. More than 9,000 people took part, and the federal caucus received 65,000 comments. ◀



## Federal groups unwind after close of meetings

Folks from two groups and several federal agencies met to unwind in mid-April. They celebrated a little and reviewed lessons they learned since the close of the comment time on the federal caucus All-H public involvement process.

BPA organized an afternoon of events. Members of the communications team from the federal agencies met for lunch at a restaurant in near north Portland. After that they

discussed lessons they learned from the 15 public meetings held in February and March around the Northwest.

In mid-afternoon, staff folks who made up the federal caucus joined the communications team. The BPA

coordinators had some special recognition of workers. Everyone got a coffee mug with the public meeting and comment numbers.

People from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S.

Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and other agencies attended. Some came from Boise, Seattle and other Northwest cities.

BPA's volunteer band, RIF and the Early Outs, played for the celebration. ◀



BPA employees in professional fields now have a clearer picture of how to advance their careers. All business lines have developed a technical career path (TCP) program. Each identifies a list of technical positions that are needed now or will be needed in the future.

The program has its roots in a bargaining agreement between BPA and the Professional Division of Laborers' (PDL) International, Local 335. The PDL represents workers in professional occupations, which are those that require an academic degree or a minimum amount of coursework in a specific field.

With the union's help, BPA developed policies for each business line's program. Since last summer, the business lines have also identified the professional positions covered by their programs. The positions range from grades 13 through 15 and include those that are critical to BPA's business success. Transmission is still working on its list of grade 13 positions.

## Technical career paths offer advancement for professionals

"We're trying to help employees understand where the opportunities will be," says Ruth Hiraki, staff manager for the Power Business Line. "So they can then take the initiative to get the training and development they'll need for their career goals."

The program purpose is to give professional people a way to advance in their career fields without having to move into management positions. It also helps BPA keep and attract technical expertise.

The business lines rigorously looked at all their positions to determine what they will need to ensure success in the future. "I look at the list as an open document that will be updated," says Leanne Cesario, Corporate staffing manager. "We must continually look into the future to determine which skills will be critical to our success."

"We're trying to build a culture where employees know what the business line's needs are and where they have career opportunities," Hiraki says. "People can then work with their managers on

individual development plans."

Each business line has unique staffing needs. So they do their planning somewhat differently. For instance, Hiraki says PBL isn't applying the TCP just to professional areas. "Most of our positions fall outside professional areas, so we plan to define skills and competencies for all career paths," she says.

With the rapid changes in technology, BPA groups have added many more specialty fields to the TCP program. "The old program strictly focused on engineers," says Bill Mittelstadt, transmission planning engineer. "But TCP has added information technology, economists and other fields."

The business lines will regularly review each plan against their strategic and staffing plans. They will add new positions to the TCP or drop those that no longer fit.

Employees can learn more about the TCP program by contacting their business line staff manager or their supervisor. ◀

**Linda Anderson writes for the Transmission Business Line**





Retirees in the Spokane area meet for breakfast monthly at Frontier West Restaurant. Among those at the April gathering were Tom Day, Mrs. Vern Green, Art Harlow, Burl Knauts, Harvey Magnuson, Blanche O'Connell, Sylvia Russell, Bernie and Twillawood Sebb, Mary Thiede, George and Doris Twiggs, Ed and Pearl Votava and Harold Wickline.



Photos by Mary Thiede

Married 71 years, Nick and Zelma Timmers (right) still attend monthly breakfast meetings in Spokane.

## Out to lunch bunch meets in metro area

Several small groups of retirees get together frequently to socialize in the Portland and Vancouver areas. But one larger group meets regularly for lunch. It's fairly young, has a little different purpose and isn't just for retirees.

The Out to Lunch Bunch, got started in 1994, says Jim Pachot who retired about that time. "A few of the recent retirees from engineering got together once a month at the Rose and Thistle Pub at Northeast 24<sup>th</sup> and Broadway," Pachot says. From there, the gathering evolved to include anyone from BPA, retired or still working. And meetings moved to a regular time – the first Fridays of each month.

Last year, the group met at the Red Robin restaurant near the Lloyd Center. But last December the folks who attended decided to move the luncheon to Vancouver. It's still held the first Friday of the month, but now it's at the Dragon King Restaurant in Hazel Dell, located on 78<sup>th</sup> St. a few blocks east of I-5.

Pachot helps coordinate the monthly gathering. He puts out notices and makes sure the meeting place is ready. The group doesn't have a formal structure or any restrictions on who can attend. "It's always been open to anyone who wants to come," Pachot says.

"Having a mix of retirees and present employees allows the retirees

to keep up with what's going on at BPA," he says. "And it often provides the present employees with information from the old-timers that may – or may not – help them in their jobs at BPA."

Pachot says "we add people to our e-mail list as they express interest in the luncheon. A person's position or rank makes no difference." He says the group sends out a yearly schedule in December. At present about 60 people get reminders.

Anyone who would like to be put on the e-mail list for the Out to Lunch Bunch can contact Pachot by e-mail at [jjpachot@transport.com](mailto:jjpachot@transport.com). ◀

## Keeping in touch is a gem for retirees

Golf groups meet the same day each week or month. "Investment clubs" – the kind that use a deck of cards and have low stakes – meet weekly. Union meetings, bowling outings and breakfasts. BPA retirees regularly get together in groups with former colleagues.

Some groups have been meeting since the 1960s and earlier. The new people who join them after retiring keep them going. And those are just regular recurring events.

Other things, like 50<sup>th</sup> anniversaries, kids' weddings and birthday bashes, figure in the picture as well. Pat Zimmer of regional relations attended the St. Patrick's Day lunch and reunion this year. She visited with several people and says, "Virtually everyone I talked to had a story or an example of keeping in touch with old friends from BPA."

Indeed, that's what most of the BPA-connected events in retirement seem to be about. Keeping in touch with old friends. When it's time to stop working and enjoy life more, most folks can leave their jobs behind but not the friendships they have built over the years.

It seems like one more nice thing to look forward to. Right alongside things like sleeping later in the morning, going places when you want to at the drop of a hat and taking naps in the middle of the afternoon.

If this doesn't sound appealing to some readers – well, you're not there yet. But for many of us closer to that time, it's a sparkling gem we have our eyes on and are about to scoop up. ◀



Spokane women at the monthly lunch posed for a photo early this year. Pictured are retirees (Left to right, front row) Maureen Karlin, Mary Thiede, Sue Matsui and Jean Johnson. In the back row are Mickey Alferez, Rose Ann Potesky, Lily Sorenson, Cathy Worstell, Mary Ann Warren, Sharon King, Joyce Fury and Helen O'Connor. Some regulars who didn't attend that day are Louise Ames, Kathleen Barbour, Lidwina Erickson, Patty Jensen, Ann Ozuna, Sylvia Russell and Mary Ann Tupper. (A friend snapped the photo.)

Retirees in the Spokane area like to keep in touch. So much so that many regularly attend a monthly breakfast. In addition, about two dozen women retirees also attend a monthly luncheon.

It's not quite right to call the breakfast at the Frontier West Restaurant a "meeting." And it's not really a club. No one presides over the gathering. No one calls the group to order. No one holds any formal office. There isn't an organization to run or business to transact. And there are no employees, managers or members.

Just folks who used to work at BPA and who like to keep in touch. Many were friends in their working

years. Most, who worked in what for years was the Upper Columbia Area, knew each other at work. The field areas are much smaller and

people get to know each other more, says Mary Thiede who retired in 1986.

So as they have retired, most have wanted to keep their ties – on a more casual level.

Thiede says that 20 to 30 folks attend the breakfasts held the first Tuesday of each month.

They don't have an agenda. They get together "mostly to see old friends that we worked with," Thiede says. "We just like to have fun and laugh and joke," she says.

The Spokane retirees have been meeting monthly like this since before most can remember – or will tell. The same is true for the retired BPA women's group that meets monthly for lunch.

Lily Sorenson retired in 1995 and says about 20 women attend the lunches frequently. They take place on the last Monday of the month. But the women add an interesting twist. They don't have a specific place for their lunches each month.

Instead, the women take turns picking the place they will meet for lunch each month. So, besides dining right in Spokane, the women retirees might meet at Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Or Post Falls, Idaho, where Sorenson lives.

As with the monthly breakfasts, the women like to get together just to share news, stories and laughter in good company. And they'll probably keep doing so, as long as BPA continues to serve the Northwest area that they call home. ◀

## Spokane retirees keep in touch

## May anniversaries

### 35 years

**Leo W. Decandido**, Lead Electrical Engineering Tech, Scheduling and Estimating, Vancouver

### 30 years

**Michael A. Jeffries**, Duplicating and Direct Print Foreman, Printing, Portland

**Paul D. Hagewood**, Computer Specialist, Operation Services, Portland

**Barbara L. Zufelt**, Relocation Technician, Disbursement Operations, Portland

**David E. Lundeen**, Substation Operator, Relief, Substation Operations, Redmond

**Vern W. Cimmery**, Computer Specialist, Software design & Maintenance, Portland

**Linda L. Perkins**, Substation Operations Specialist, Dittmer Dispatch, Vancouver

**Neal E. Meisner**, Realty Specialist, Real Estate Field Services, Portland

### 25 years

**Jeannine D. Hill**, Personal Assistant, Shared Services, Portland

**Rita Guzman**, Computer Specialist, Server Services, Portland

**Nicholas Henderson**, Environmental Specialist, Technical and Regional Services, Olympia

**Ralph Fair**, Safety and Occupational Health Manager, Safety Vancouver

**Stanley S. Kusaka**, Public Utilities Specialist, Interchange Scheduling, Portland

**Ottie E. Nabors**, Public Utilities Specialist, Business Strategy Development, Portland

**Dennis M. Oster**, Customer Account Executive, Bulk Marketing and Transmission, Portland

**Malcolm L. Mackey**, Substation Operator, Substation Operations, Chemawa

**Glenn R. Martinez**, Facility Management Specialist, Facility Maintenance, Vancouver

**Jonathan D. Schwarz**, System Protection Control Craftsman, Control and Protection, Vancouver

### 20 years

**Gayle L. Snoen**, Program Analyst, Telecommunication Services, Portland

**Stephen J. Goins**, Labor Relations Specialist, Human Resources, Diversity and EEO, Portland

**Janet L. Rickman**, Public Utilities Specialist, Eastern Power Business Area, Spokane

**Mark H. Ebberts**, Economist, Power Products, Pricing & Rates, Portland

**Darryl C. Schellhammer**, System Protection Control Craftsman, SPC, The Dalles

**William K. Murray**, Materials Handler Foreman, Material Handling & Transportation, Vancouver

**Kerry H. Bilyeu**, Electrical Engineering Technician, Control and Protection, Portland

**Wendelin H. Mueller**, Structural Engineer, Transmission Development, Portland

**Amanda L. Hickman**, Computer Specialist, Technical Operations, Vancouver

### 10 years

**Arthur D. Benedetti White**, Computer Specialist, Server Services, Portland

**Patricia Picariello**, Materials Handler, Material Handling & Transportation, Vancouver

**Robert D. Schoenberg**, System Dispatcher, Dittmer Dispatch, Vancouver

## Corrections of service

The April Circuit listed two times of service wrong under the anniversaries. Both appeared under the 25-year service date but should have been 30 years of service. They are **Dennis A. Chabot**, chief substation operator at Malin, and **Kathleen L. Suckow**, budget analyst at Portland.

## Retirements

**Victoria P. English**, Supervisory Public Utilities Specialist, PBL, Energy Efficiency, retires May 1 with 34 years service.

**Lee E. Johnson**, Public Utilities Specialist, PBL, Communications & Liaison, retires May 1 with 33 years service.

**Jack Kiley**, Manager, General Services, retires May 1 with 31 years service.

**David A. Phelps**, Substation Operator, Transmission Field Services, retires May 31 with 37 years service.



The 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Washington State Science & Engineering Fair took place April 14-15 at Olympic College in Bremerton. Nearly 400 students, grades 1-12, competed for scholarships, cash awards, trophies and other prizes. The students came from 26 cities in Washington. The two grand prize winners earned trips to the International Science and Engineering Fair. It takes place May 7-13 in Detroit, Mich.

BPA is one of three major sponsors of the annual fair. It helps with the grand prize cost for the weeklong all-expense paid trip to Detroit.

BPA also gives cash awards to the two students for projects that best demonstrate stewardship of the Northwest through technologies for energy and the environment. The past two years, the cash awards were \$25 each, but this year they were \$100 each. Increased support from the Transmission Business Line regions made the higher prizes possible.

The BPA senior division winner this year was Elise Thorne, ninth grade student at Selah Junior High in Selah. Her project was entitled, "Finding transformers' peak efficiency by testing at different loads."

The junior division winner was Ashleigh Buckendahl, seventh grade student at Selah Intermediate School. Her project was entitled, "The effect of various wind speeds and blade factors on energy output." Three other students got personal cash awards of \$50 established by BPA's Betty Olsgaard. Two years ago when she volunteered at the fair, Olsgaard was inspired to create a special cash award herself. She named it in honor of her mother, Olga Brooks, who had tutored in mathematics when Betty was growing up.

The winners of the Olga Brooks Honorary Math Excellence Award each got a colorful rosette button with their \$50 cash award.

First grader Alex Leahy from Eton School in Bellevue won for his project entitled, "How fast does my truck go?" A fifth grade student at Whatcom Day Academy in Bellingham, Kelly Staves, won for



More than 20 BPA workers, family members and friends volunteered to work at the annual Washington State Science Fair in Bremerton on April 14-15. Orion Albro, Emry Barnhill, Dean Bender, John Brank, John Brant and son Aaron, Manuela Esquibel, Haven Fowler, Bert Hurlbert and Keith Lawson helped set up the Olympic College competition site, judge projects and run the event. Lois Jane Lugg, Dan Michael, E.J. Missine, Pam Odam, John Pitts and daughter Kelsi, Mike Sheetz, Kyra Stewart, Jerry Taylor, Gary Westling and Kathi Youngs helped with the program, registration, computer setup and judging.

Photos by Keith Lawson

her project entitled, "Preventing eating disorders through peer education." And Zachary Berstein, a seventh grade student from Central Kitsap Junior High in Silverdale, won for his project entitled,

"Why are roller coasters so much fun? The physics of roller coasters." BPA's overall financial support for the fair more than doubled this year – to \$1,200. The TBL Olympia Region contributed more than half of a match by Corporate regional relations. BPA also gave much in-kind help, including use of laptops, printers and office supplies during the fair. And employ-

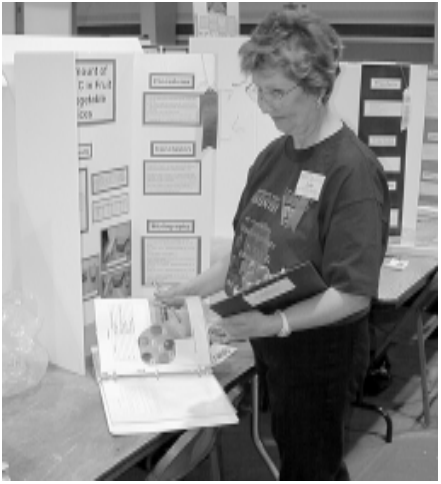


Photos by Keith Lawson, equipment mechanic at Covington Substation

ees gave about 150 volunteer hours. Two dozen BPA volunteers helped set up the exhibit tables, work the registration database, serve as judges and do all the statewide media relations and photography for the fair. The BPA folks and their friends wore special "BPA Community Volunteer" t-shirts provided by the Olympia and Snohomish regional managers.

Lois Jane Lugg, a district engineer at Kitsap, has coordinated this event for BPA since 1991. Besides her other duties, she designed and programmed the original registration database. And this year she created a whole new registration system in Access. The fair has grown in size each year, and BPA's support grows to match, thanks to Lois' efforts and the help by so many other BPA volunteers. ◀

### Kyra Stewart works on BPA community relations in Seattle



## Doctors know noes

A city back east planned to rebuild and move the site of its major hospital. The announcement in the press drew varied reactions from medical groups in the community. Here's what the doctors had to say.

The dermatologists preferred no rash moves. The allergists voted to scratch it. The gastroenterologists had a bad gut feeling about it. The neurologists thought the administration had a lot of nerve. And the microsurgeons were thinking along the same vein.

The obstetricians said the proponents were laboring under a misconception. The ophthalmologists considered the idea short-sighted. The orthopedists issued a joint resolution. And the pathologists said the plan would go forward, "over their dead bodies."

The pediatricians said the proponents should "grow up." The psychiatrists thought it was madness. The surgeons decided to wash their hands of the whole thing. The radiologists said they could see right through it. And the internists thought it was a hard pill to swallow.

A spokesman for the plastic surgeons said, "This puts a whole new face on city service." The podiatrists thought it was a big step backward. The urologists felt the scheme wouldn't hold water. And the anesthesiologists thought the whole idea was a gas.

The otologists were deaf to the idea. The cardiologists said they were big-hearted but had to say no to the plan.

So the move didn't fly. ◀

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